

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, the disclosure was objected to because the specification does not show headings, and a preferred layout was suggested. In response, this suggestion is acknowledged, but headings have not been added as they as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a).

On the merits, claims 1, 3 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchiyama et al, with claim 4 being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiyama in view of the admitted prior art, all for the reasons of record.

In response, independent claims 1 and 8, and dependent claim 7, have been amended to more particularly and precisely recite the novel and unobvious features of the instant invention, and it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims, as herewith amended, are now clearly patently distinguishable over the cited and applied references for the reasons detailed below.

More particularly, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more precisely recite that the light path direction and the moving direction enclose an angle of about 45° and that the direction of the light emitted from the first laser device encloses an angle of about 90° with respect to the optical axis of the optical head (the foregoing language pertains specifically to device claim 1, with method claim 8 incorporating similar

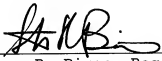
limitations in method form). Additionally, claim 7 has been amended to recite that the light emitted from the second laser device is substantially parallel to the light emitted from the first laser device. Support for this subject matter may be found, *inter alia* at Fig. 2 and page 3, lines 22-25 of the instant application.

Specifically, by comparing Fig. 2 of the instant application, which shows the optical head 10 containing first and second laser devices (50, 90) emitting light at an angle of about 90° with respect to the optical axis XX' in combination with Fig. 4, which shows the relationship of optical head 10 to the remainder of the structure to Fig. 5 of Uchiyama, it can be seen that the specific limitations of independent claims 1 and 8, as herewith amended, are neither shown nor suggested by the reference. Furthermore, the additional limitation of dependent claim 7 regarding the light emitted from the two laser devices being substantially parallel, is also neither shown nor suggested by Uchiyama, wherein the light output of light sources 11 and 21 in Fig. 5 intersect at an angle of about 60° .

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the currently pending claims, as herewith amended, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied art. Accordingly, allowance of the instant

application is respectfully submitted to be justified at the present time, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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